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Leggett, William J.
Origin & data of the Leggett
family of Columbia county,

Origin & Data
of
The Leggett Family
of
Columbia County, N.Y.
Compiled by
Rev. William J. Leggett, Ph.D.
Nyack, N.Y., July, 1924

I. The Leggett family is traced to William, whose surname was taken from his progenitor, Osborne Legatus, the papal legate to England. The crest - a pope's mitre - on the coat-of-arms of the Leggett family, as well as the root of the word, indicates that this is the origin of the name "Leggett." Original document signed by Gabriel Leggett "esquire" and William Leggett "esquire" (Mayor of Borough of Westchester) dated Dec., 1760, was sealed by a seal ring showing a lion rampant, same as shown on coat-of-arms of Sir Helmingius Legate, High Sheriff of Hertsfordshire and Essex Counties, England, 1401-1408, great grandson of William Legatt of Havering, Essex County, prior to 1300. Osborne Legatus was of Havering, Essex, England, 1250-1307.

II. Walter, son of William, was proprietor of Havering and married Joana, daughter of John de Chilborne. His son,

III. Robert, succeeded him. His son,

IV. Helmingius, was High Sheriff of Essex, 1401-1408. Married, 1401, Alice, daughter of Sir Thomas Mandeville. His son,

V. Thomas, born 1402. His son

VI. Thomas, was Lord of the Manor of Cockerells, Black Nottey and Dagenhams, Essex. His son,

VII. Thomas, of Essex, born 1461, was Lord of the Manors of Jiddyhall & Dagenhams; is buried at Horn Church, where his tomb monument with effigy and arms still remain. His son,

VIII. Thomas, of Essex of England, died Jan. 18, 1555. Was Justice of Essex. Married Catharine of Kilgoos. His son,

IX. Thomas Legatt de Dagenham, born 1545; Justice of Essex; married Elizabeth Church. His second son,

X John Legatt de Dagenham. His son,

XI. John, came from Essex, England, and settled in the Island of Barbadoes, West Indies, where he owned land, 1636-1640. In 1642, he lived at Hampton, New Hampshire; taught school there and at Exeter, and was Clerk of the Court at Exeter, N.H., from 1642 until 1649. In 1644 he married Annie, widow of Thomas Wilson, ruler of Exeter, and continued to reside in New Hampshire till at least 1653.

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Later he lived in Westchester, possibly at West Farms, where Gabriel Leggett (probably his brother) owned a large tract of land, and built ships. John Leggett gave a bill of sale of the ship "Susannah, built by him, to Jacob Leysler Nov. 30, 1676. John Leggett was a subscribing witness to a document dated March 27, 1675, recorded in Secretary of State's office. Book I of Deeds, Page 33. In 1679, a certificate of appraisal of a ketch, built by Mr. Leggett, belonging jointly to John Leggett & Frederick Phillipse, is recorded in English and Colonial MSS., page 80.

XII. John Leggett, of Westchester, mariner, died at Port Royal, Jamaica, leaving his last will dated Oct. 2, 1679, proved in New York City Feb. 2, 1680, leaving to his son, John, when he becomes 21 yrs. old, etc. This Will is recorded in County Clerk's Office, New York City.

The Collegiate Dutch Church record, New York, contains the following marriage record:

Sept. 14, 1688, Jan Legget, young man from Barbadoes, to Catalina Ten Broeck (Daughter of Wessels & Styntje Ten Broeck, young woman from New Albany, he living in New York and she in Albany. The record of the First Reformed Church of Albany gives the same marriage but the date is Oct. 7, 1688.

XIII. Children of Jan (John) Leggett & Catalina Ten Broeck, all baptized in Collegiate Church, New York City:

Rachel	Baptized	July 29, 1689;
Christina	"	Feb. 28, 1692;—(Died)
Jan	"	Apr. 2, 1693;
Christina	"	" 2, 1693.

The Tax Lists of New York City for the years 1695-1699 (N.Y. Historical Society record) show that Catelina, widow of John Leggett, was assessed for a house in the south ward. John Leggett, her husband, had died in 1693 or 1694, aged about 30 years. She died Oct. 10, 1725, aged 59 yrs.

Jan (John) Leggett married Oct. 25, 1722, Bata Delamater, baptized Dec. 28, 1703. More favorable terms were given in the Rensselaer Manor than in the Livingston Manor, to tenants, and many families moved to the Rensselaer Manor.

John Leggett built a brick house in what is now the town of Ghent, Columbia County, about five miles north of Claverack Village. On at least 3 of the broad sides of the bricks are these letters and dates: "J. L. 1750" "B. L. 1750" "J. L. 1750" which were made when the clay was soft. The bricks were undoubtedly made near the house, which is near a wonderful spring of water. The house is still standing and was in the Leggett family till 1880. Jan & Beta Leggett had sittings in the Claverack Church in 1726.

Their children were: x x

Jacobus Leggett - Baptized 1730 (?)
Married Catharine Reyn, Nov. 4, 1769 (Livingston Church record)

x x x

Their children were:

John Leggett, born Dec. 23, 1770. Baptized Jan. 20, 1771. Died Jan. 26, 1847. Married Feb. 22, 1795, Mary Van Alstyne, born Jan. 6, 1773; died Apr. 15, 1863.

x x x

Their children were:

James L. Leggett. Born Nov. 8, 1797; died July 16, 1853. Married (1st) May 18, 1820, Catharine Whitbeck, who died Nov. 18, 1849 and (2d) Angelica Whitbeck, died March, 1895.

x x x

Their children (1st wife) were:

Andrew Leggett, Born March 19, 1826; died July 15, 1857. Married Oct. 29, 1849, Harriet Emerick, born Feb. 17, 1831; died Nov. 23, 1913.

x x x

Their children were:

Frank J. Leggett: Born Oct. 12, 1853; died Married June 26 1883, Jessie Kipsman Jones, born Oct. 6, 1861, died July 8, 1902.

Their children were:

Raymond Emerick Leggett, born Oct. 17, 1884; Married Sept. 15, 1909, Anna Helen Engelhardt, born Oct. 30, 1887; died March 9, 1953.

x x x

Their children were:

Raymond Engelhardt Leggett born Oct. 8, 1911, Brooklyn, N.Y. Married Yvonne Greenaway Heading April 23, 1937.

x x x

Their children are:

Martin Lionel Leggett; Born N.Y. City, Aug. 13, 1941.

Barry Emerick Leggett; Born at Honolulu, H.I., Feb. 4, 1948.

There are from 10,000 to 12,000 living male Leggetts in the U.S. and Canada and most are descended from one common ancestor, John Leggett.

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